

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0336
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0115

PARIS FOR THE ATTENTION OF ASST. SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IS, EG, XF
SUBJ: ARIK SHARON TO PARTICIPATE IN JERUSALEM TALKS

1. IN RECENT DAYS THE PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT AGRICUL-
TURE MINISTER SHARON WILL SERVE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
DAYAN ON THE ISRAELI DELEGATION TO THE JERUSALEM POLI-
TICAL COMMITTEE TALKS. THOUGH SHARON'S ALLEGED APPOINTMENT
HAS STIRRED UP CONTROVERSY, IT APPEARS TO HAVE THE
SUPPORT OF BOTH BEGIN AND DAYAN. YESTERDAY'S EXTRA-
ORDINARY CABINET MEETING WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE DISCUSSED
THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION AS WELL AS THE PROBLEM
OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE TERRITORIES. HOWEVER, SINCE THE
CABINET CONSTITUTED ITSELF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON
SECURITY THE DELIBERATIONS WERE IN CAMERA AND THERE WAS
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NO COMMUNIQUE AT THE CONCLUSION. INDICATIONS POINT TO
NO FIRM DECISION YET ON THE DELEGATION. NRP AND DMC
MINISTERS REPORTEDLY DEMANDED REPRESENTATION FOR THEIR
PARTIES ON THE DELEGATION IN VIEW OF SHARON'S INCLU-
SION -- A REPLAY OF THE ARGUMENT OVER WHO WOULD ACCOMPANY
BEGIN TO ISMAILIA. PART OF A RUMORED COMPROMISE IS TO
HAVE DMC TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER MEIR

AMIT ACCOMPANY DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN TO CAIRO FOR THE MILITARY TALKS.

2. SHARON'S NAME IS FREQUENTLY MENTIONED IN REPORTS OF PLANS FOR NEW SETTLEMENTS BEYOND THE GREEN LINE AND "THICKENING" EXISTING ONES (SEE SEPTTEL). IN FACT THE TWO QUESTIONS OF INCLUDING SHARON IN THE JERUSALEM TALKS AND SETTLEMENTS IN THE TERRITORIES ARE CLOSELY RELATED. NOT ONLY IS SHARON CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SETTLEMENTS BUT HE HAS BEEN A LEADING EXPONENT OF SETTLING THE WEST BANK AND ALONG WITH DAYAN PUSHED HARD FOR "CREATING FACTS" IN THE RAFAH APPROACHES. IT WAS FOR THESE REASONS THAT DAYAN AND SHARON WERE PICKED TO EXPLAIN THE GOVERNMENT'S PEACE PLAN TO A GRIM PUBLIC MEETING AT THE SINAI SETTLEMENT OF SADOT ON JANUARY 1. THE MINISTERS WERE CONTINUOUSLY INTERRUPTED AND GENERALLY FAILED TO APPEASE THE CROWD.

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO EVRONN BEGIN AND DAYAN'S DESIRE TO GET SHARON INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IS AN EFFORT TO PREVENT ANY PUBLIC OPPOSITION FROM SHARON TO BEGIN'S CONCESSIONS AND FORESTALL HARDLINE CRITICISM FROM SHARON'S FOLLOWING. (IN THIS RESPECT IT PARALLEL'S BEGIN'S BRINGING SHMUEL KATZ AND HAIM LANDAU TO WASHINGTON TO SIT IN ON HIS RECENT MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.) THERE IS ALSO TALK OF A DAYAN-SHARON FRONT AGAINST WEIZMAN'S RISING INFLUENCE. FOR HIS PART, SHARON APPEARS TO HAVE RETAINED SERIOUS RESERVATIONS WITH THE BEGIN
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PROPOSALS, BUT BELIEVES HE WILL DO BETTER IN FURTHERING HIS VIEWS AS A NEGOTIATOR WITH THE EGYPTIANS THAN AS A CRITIC OUTSIDE THE DISCUSSIONS. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THE IDEA OF ADDING DAYAN TO THE DELEGATION WAS INITIALLY BEGIN'S, EVRON HAS TOLD ME THAT DAYAN FULLY SUPPORTS THE MOVE. DAYAN UNDOUBTEDLY CALCULATES IT IS BETTER TO HAVE SHARON WITH HIM THAN AGAINST HIM IN THE TOUGH NEGOTIATING THAT LIES AHEAD.
LEWIS

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